United Nations A/55/875-S/2001/322

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 April 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 20 (a) and (b), 33, 49 and 73 (j), (l), (s) and (w)

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations; special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Culture of peace

The situation in East Timor during its transition to independence

General and complete disarmament: consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures; assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them; illicit traffic in small arms; small arms

Letter dated 2 April 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Chairman's summary of the International Symposium on Conflict Prevention, entitled "Culture of Prevention: Multi-Actor Coordination from UN to Civil Society", which was held from 13 to 14 March 2001 in Tokyo.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 (a), 20 (b), 33, 49, 73 (j), 73 (l), 73 (s) and 73 (w), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kiyotaka **Akasaka**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

01-32527 (E) 110401

Annex to the letter dated 2 April 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

International Symposium on Conflict Prevention: Culture of Prevention: Multi-Actor Coordination from UN to Civil Society

13-14 March 2001, Tokyo

Introduction

The International Symposium on Conflict Prevention, entitled "Culture of Prevention: Multi-Actor Coordination from UN to Civil Society," was held from 13 to 14 March 2001 in Tokyo to consider how to achieve the successful coordination among various actors engaged in conflict prevention activities, such as the United Nations, other international organizations, regional organizations, governments, local communities, and civil society, including NGOs, etc. In order to focus the discussions, the Symposium addressed two specific themes, "Small Arms & Light Weapons in the Case of Cambodia" and "Conflict and Development in the Case of East Timor." The Symposium was organized by the Government of Japan, as a follow-up to the "G8 Miyazaki Initiatives for Conflict Prevention (A/55/161-S/2000/714)." The list of participants is attached hereto (see Appendix).

The Symposium, chaired by Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Chairman of the Japan Center for Preventive Diplomacy, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia, and later, for the former Yugoslavia, consisted of two sessions of the Plenary and two Sub-Group Meetings. The first and introductory session of the Plenary Meeting with keynote remarks by the representatives of various actors was followed by the two Sub-Group Meetings. The Sub-Group Meetings were held in parallel, each addressing one of the above-mentioned specific themes. The second session of the Plenary Meeting heard additional keynote remarks by the representatives of various actors as well as the reports from the moderators of two Sub-Group Meetings. The Chair of the Symposium concluded the Symposium by issuing the Chairman's Summary, which was drafted in the Chairman's capacity. The whole text of the Chairman's Summary is as follows.

Chairman's Summary

I. PLENARY DISCUSSION

1. BASIC THEMES

With the growing number of actors engaged in conflict prevention activities today, we have witnessed a wide variety of efforts for preventing conflicts on the ground. The key to successful preventive measures is how to achieve the optimum coordination among those actors, based upon their respective roles and comparative advantages. This symposium is one of the follow-ups to the G8 Miyazaki Initiatives for Conflict Prevention, which emphasized a comprehensive, integrated approach. In addition to these well-known aspects of a better approach to conflict prevention, concrete suggestions were made on two issues, the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in Cambodia, and reconciliation and development in East Timor.

2. THE NEED FOR A SYSTEMATIC STRATEGY EMBRACING ALL ACTORS

At present, there exists inadequate coordination and insufficient communication among multiple-actors working at conflict prevention, resulting in ineffectiveness and failure, with the actions of some actors canceling out those of other actors. On the other hand, solid coordination could serve to alleviate or eliminate difficulties faced by the actors concerned, ensuring that resources are applied in a more efficient manner, and that assistance reaches communities that are most in need.

Therefore, we recommend that best practices should be established with the advantages and diversity of different actors, ensuring that our undertakings move more effectively toward the same coherent goal. At the same time, it was noted that excessive efforts on coordination on procedural issues could hamper dynamism and initiatives of various actors.

3. LONG-TERM STRUCTURAL PREVENTION & SHORT-TERM CRISIS MANAGEMENT

It is generally understood that we have been witnessing two approaches to conflict prevention activities. The first type of these activities are those addressing the root causes of conflict and building the foundations of peaceful and stable societies. These activities take a variety of forms, such as broad, comprehensive development, participatory governance, equitable use of natural resources, educational systems, etc. Situations of severe poverty, especially in societies divided by ethnicity or religion, are a breeding ground for violent conflict, often triggered by political extremism or sudden economic downturn. Post-conflict peace building is essential for the prevention of the recurrence of conflict.

Short-term crisis management or preventive diplomacy involves identifying as early as possible where and how violent conflict may erupt, and acting or responding as quickly and decisively as possible. This can involve a variety of actions, ranging from preventive diplomacy to coercive measures as necessary.

4. KEY ELEMENTS IN A CULTURE OF PREVENTION

The key elements necessary for establishing a culture of conflict prevention are, among others, the collection and destruction of small arms, the return and reintegration of refugees, reconciliation and community development, social and economic measures to generate an atmosphere for co-existence or to cure root causes of conflicts, and building local capacities for good governance and equitable and sustainable development.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTORS

The UN and other international organizations should continue to advocate new initiatives and norms. In particular, they should take the lead in designing and promoting international efforts in this area. Recent examples include the restriction on the illicit trade of diamonds in conflict areas, and restrictions on the small arms trade.

The UN, other international organizations and governments are urged to contemplate involving responsible NGOs in the design and conceptualizing stages of conflict prevention policy. It is not enough just to try to cooperate in times of crises.

Therefore, a greater effort should be made to bring together all the stakeholders in conflict prevention.

The UN and other international organizations are invited also to take the lead, as appropriate, in coordinating the whole range of actors involved in conflict prevention. They should also further promote internal coordination, including at the field level. It is recognized that coordination be best promoted at the outset of operations.

Governments are requested to increase flexibility in their management of ODA and to share information, with a view to assisting and encouraging NGOs engaged in conflict prevention.

Local civil society actors including NGOs can play a key role in 'bottom-up' strategies of conflict prevention. For example, in education, or possibly in reconciliation, a major capacity-building initiative should be directed at enhancing the positive role that local and international NGOs can play, whilst allowing them to maintain their autonomy and identity. NGOs, however, should base their activities on their own expertise. In view of the complexity of local political and humanitarian challenges, NGOs could benefit from strengthening their expertise, including their analytical capacity.

Promoting a culture of prevention in non-conflict countries should include efforts to ensure that the viewpoint of international cooperation should be taken into consideration in school education. The media can also play a major role in dissemination of information on conflict prevention among the wider public, and their role should be exercised carefully and responsibly if they are to be useful and effective. Indeed, evidence has shown that sometimes the media are used to incite conflict.

II. SUB-GROUP MEETINGS

1. *SUB-GROUP 1: Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Case of Cambodia*

Key-Note Presentations:

In Sub-Group 1, discussions were focused on the problem of excessive and destabilizing availability of small arms and light weapons, more specifically on the collection and destruction of such weapons in Cambodia where long-lasting civil wars finally came to an end, because the excessive availability of such weapons seriously threatens internal security, stability and economic and social development.

Prior to the Sub-Group meeting, at the end of the plenary session yesterday morning, we all listened to the very important key-note presentation by H. E. Lt. Gen. HOK Lundy, Director General of Cambodian National Police, in which we were briefed about the overall efforts the Royal Cambodian Government is making in the collection and destruction of weapons. More than a hundred thousand weapons have already been collected, and about one third of them destroyed. Efforts are also made to prevent their proliferation to neighboring countries. Becoming aware of the courageous efforts being made by the Royal Government of Cambodia, the international communities and non-governmental organizations including indigenous NGOs like the Working Group for Weapons Reduction are now coming to cooperate and assist with such efforts, but since it will take longer and greater efforts to resolve the problem, much more efforts for assistance and cooperation by actors other than the Cambodian government are required.

Following this presentation made by H. E. Lt. Gen. HOK Lundy, Sub-Group 1 started its deliberations by receiving three more presentations, one by H. E. Mr. UNG Samy, Governor of Pursat Province on the present situation and the challenges of the problem of small arms in his Province, secondly by Brigadier General (Rtd.) Henny J. van der Graaf, project manager of the European Union Assistance in curbing Small Arms in Cambodia (EU ASAC) on his activities in Cambodia, particularly on several concrete projects now underway, and finally by Mr. Osanai, one of the Deputy Director-Generals of the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the Japanese policy to assist Cambodia in some of the projects related to small arms.

Summary of Discussions:

- First, it should be reiterated that it was the Cambodian government and the people of Cambodia who started to take the initiative to make intensified efforts for disarmament and demobilization since several years ago, because without such efforts internal peace and security, and social and economic development cannot be secured or put on the right track.

- Second, for the purpose of the collection and destruction of weapons, a number of initiatives and projects are already underway or about to be launched in Cambodia.
- Third, what is of great importance in such efforts is the establishment of a reliable police and security system that would reassure ordinary citizens that they would not have to keep arms for the protection of their lives and property.
- Fourth, with respect to the illicit trafficking of small arms across the borders with neighboring countries, effective measures to eradicate such trafficking will have to be taken, because unless the supply of such weapons are stopped any efforts to reduce their excessive availability are bound to end up in a failure.
- Fifth, a comprehensive approach encompassing not only disarmament and demobilization but also social and economic development has to be promoted.
- Sixth, the important role civil societies can play in raising public awareness was stressed by all the participants.
- Seventh, the coordination of various efforts by various actors is a matter of great importance.

2. *SUB-GROUP 2: Conflict and Development in the Case of East Timor*

The sub-group on "conflict and development in East Timor" canvassed a wide range of issues before focussing specifically on the question of reconciliation and its relationship with development in East Timor. Among the suggestions of a general nature made were:

- There should be a high level of participation by local communities in projects, and good coordination is essential among all actors in development projects.
- Contingency measures should immediately be put in place to deal with the economic dislocation expected when the UN administration leaves. It is especially important to develop measures to deal with the expected sudden rise in unemployment that will occur and to develop projects in rural areas that will mop up this unemployment.
- More concentrated efforts should be made to encourage the return of "old" NGOs that operated in East Timor under Indonesian rule.
- International community should strongly support East Timor's nation building efforts

as a strategy to manage the expected rise in conflict and social tension immediately after independence.

- Better training of police (including training in how to use increased crime-fighting powers to ensure that they do not infringe on the rights of citizens).
- Gender equity is important and very specific strategies need to be developed to promote gender equity including long-term capacity building projects for women.

On the question of reconciliation to the development of East Timor, the sub-group saw two dimensions of the reconciliation issue: reconciliation among the East Timorese themselves and reconciliation between East Timor and Indonesia.

In order to promote reconciliation among the East Timorese themselves the group regarded the following ideas as important:

- Reconciliation and development go together and expanding economy and growing prosperity are safeguards against the rise of conflict.
- Reconciliation and justice must go hand in hand, but because the interface between the two is problematic there needs to be well-funded study of the coordination between reconciliation and justice.
- The role of community mediation councils such as already exist in Covalima should be expanded to embrace reconciliation. The feasibility of one-stop legal advice centers should be investigated.
- Strategies need to be developed to encourage informal reconciliation practices as well as strategies to ensure that current judicial mechanisms are truly sustainable after the departure of the UN.
- East Timor's future membership of ASEAN is an important strategy for consolidating reconciliation between Indonesia and East Timor and the admission of East Timor to ASEAN needs to be supported by the international community.
- Trade relations between Indonesia and East Timor, especially trade across the border, is critical to the success of reconciliation between the two countries and this trade needs to be facilitated by the international community.
- The mass media, especially radio, are important for the promotion of reconciliation in East Timor. Radio and print media need to be strengthened. There is an urgent

necessity for reliable information on security and economic conditions in East Timor to be disseminated among East Timorese refugees and West Timor. It is desirable that refugees in West Timor have access to newspapers and radio broadcasts from East Timor.

- Indonesia should be persuaded to honour its commitment to investigate and report reliably on the wishes of East Timorese refugees in West Timor or alternatively to allow an independent assessment of the wishes of the East Timorese refugees.

Appendix*

List of Participants

March 13, 2001
(Per each group, in alphabetical order)

Plenary Meeting

Chair

Mr. Yasushi AKASHI	Chairman, The Japan Center for Preventive Diplomacy

Moderators

Sub-Group Meeting 1: Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Case of Cambodia

Mr. Mitsuro DONOWAKI	Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

Sub-Group Meeting 2: Conflict and Development in the Case of East Timor

Dr. George QUINN	Head of Southeast Asia Centre, Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University

Representatives from United Nations

Prof. Dr. Hans van GINKEL	Rector, United Nations University
Mr. John RENNINGER	Director, Asia and the Pacific Division Department of Political Affairs, United Nations
Mr. Hatsuhisa TAKASHIMA	Director, United Nations Information Centre

Representatives from Academia

Dr. Patrick CRONIN	Director, Research and Studies Program, US Institute of Peace
Prof. Hisako SHIMURA	President, Tsuda College

Representatives from NGOs

Mr. Kazuyuki KINBARA	Deputy Director, International Economic Affairs Bureau, Keidanren
Mr. NEB Sinthay	Executive Coordinator, Working Group for Weapons Reduction in Cambodia (WGWR)
Sir Harold WALKER	President, Care International

Representative from Cambodia

Lt. Gen. HOK Lundy	Director General of National Police

Representative from East Timor

Ms. Emilia PIRES	Head, National Planning and Development Agency, UNTAET/ETTA

Representative from Japanese Government

Mr. Katsuhiko OKU	Director, United Nations Policy Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

* The appendix is being issued in the language of submission only.

Sub-Group Meeting 1: Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Case of Cambodia

Moderator

Mr. Mitsuro DONOWAKI	Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

Representatives from Cambodia

Cambodian Government:

Lt. Gen. HOK Lundy	Director General, National Police
Brig. Gen. MAO Chandara	Director of Staff Department, Ministry of Interior
Pol. Col. SAR Moline	Acting Director, International Relations and ASEAN Department, Ministry of Interior

Local Governments:

H.E. Mr. UNG Samy	Governor of Pursat Province
H.E. Mr. LOY Sophat	Governor of Kratie Province

Representative from Australia

Mr. Bernard LYNCH	Director, Conventional and Nuclear Disarmament Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Representative from EU

Brig. Gen. RNA (Rtd.) Henny van der GRAAF	Special Adviser, European Union/Project Manager EU/ASAC (European Assistance on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Cambodia)

Representative from Permanent Missions to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. OUCH Borith	Permanent Representative, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

Representatives from United Nations

Mr. Evgeniy GORKOVSKIY	Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, Department for Disarmament Affairs
Dr. ROS Chhay	Provincial Programme Manager, UNDP/CARERE

Representatives from United Nations Affiliated Institutions

Mr. Ivor FUNG	Director, Regional Centre for Peace & Disarmament in Africa
Mr. Péricles GASPARINI	Director, Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and Caribbean

Representatives from Academia

Mr. Tsutomu ARAI	Senior Research Fellow, Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Japan Institute for International Affairs

Mr. Masamichi KAMIYA	Visiting Research Fellow, Hiroshima Peace Institute
Dr. Benny WIDYONO	Former United Nations Secretary-General's Representative in Cambodia, Researcher on Post-Conflict Peace building

Representatives from NGOs (Japan)

Prof. Kuniaki ASOMURA	Executive Director, The Japan Center for Preventive Diplomacy
Mr. Naoto SAKAGUCHI	Vice Secretary General, InterBand

Representatives from NGOs (Overseas)

Prof. Kevin CLEMENTS	Secretary General, International Alert
Dr. Tyrol FERDINANDS	General Secretary, National Peace Council of Sri Lanka
Mr. NEB Sinthay	Executive Coordinator, Working Group for Weapons Reduction in Cambodia (WGWR)

Others

Mr. Yoshitomo TANAKA	President, Radiopress, Inc.

Representative from Japan International Cooperation Agency

Mr. Satoru KUROSAWA	Director, Global Issues Division, Planning and Evaluation Department

Representative from Japanese Government

Mr. Takashi OSANAI	Deputy Director-General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sub-Group Meeting 2: Conflict and Development in the Case of East Timor

Moderator

Dr. George QUINN	Head of Southeast Asia Centre, Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University

Representatives from East Timor

Ms. Emilia PIRES	Head, National Planning and Development Agency, UNTAET/ETTA
Mr. Salvador SOARES	Member of National Council, ETTA Publisher and Editor in Chief of Daily Suara Timor Lorosae

Representative from Australia

Mr. James BATLEY	Australian Representative to UNTAET (Dili)

Representative from Permanent Missions to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Martin ANDJABA	Permanent Representative Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations

Representatives from United Nations

Mr. Kenji ISEZAKI	Senior Civil Officer, UNTAET
Mr. John RENNINGER	Director, Asia and the Pacific Division Department of Political Affairs, United Nations

Representative from International Institutions

Ms. Sarah CLIFFE	Chief of Mission, World Bank Office in Dili

Representatives from NGOs (Japan)

Dr. Masako ISHII	Peace Policy Unit Coordinator, Peace Winds Japan
Mr. Kiyokazu KOSHIDA	Director, International Cooperation Pacific Asia Resource Center
Mr. Toshiya TSUKAMOTO	Director of ADRA Japan

Representatives from NGOs (Overseas)

Dr. Ines SMYTH	Regional Policy Team Advisor-East Asia, OXFAM GB
Sir Harold WALKER	President, Care International

Representative from Academia

Ms. Flaurie STORIE	Executive Director, Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation

Representatives from Japan International Cooperation Agency

Mr. Teruyoshi KUMASHIRO	Director, Southeast Asia Division, Regional Department I
Mr. Aiichiro YAMAMOTO	General Affairs Department Ex-UNTAET Senior Civil Affairs Officer

Representative from Japanese Government

Mr. Hiroshi MATSUURA	Representative of Liaison Office of the Government of Japan in East Timor